

**THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SPENNYMOOR**



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1969

**TOGETHER WITH THE SUMMARY OF WORK OF
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND
CLEANSING OFFICER**

**THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SPENNYMOOR**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR THE YEAR
1969**

**DURHAM :
G. BAILES & SONS LIMITED**

1970

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 1969-70.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR T. W. CHATTERTON

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. T. RICHARDSON

Members :

Spennymoor Ward ... J. C. ARMSTRONG, R. D. LONG, V. ROBSON,
T. SUGDEN, DR. K. D. WOOD, MISS O.
M. DOBSON, ALDERMAN HIRST.

Low Spennymoor Ward F. HOWELLS, MRS. R. ORTON, J. R.
TAYLOR.

Tudhoe Ward ... DR. E. BRAUER, C. BRAYSHAW, T. W.
CHATTERTON, K. JACKSON, G. K. KER-
WOOD, G. THOMPSON.

Middlestone Ward ... J. KITSON, J. T. RICHARDSON.

Kirk Merrington Ward ... J. O. LIDSTER.

Byers Green Ward ... J. R. NOBLE, J. G. STOREY.

The Health Committee comprises all members of the Council.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. T. RICHARDSON

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. KITSON

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
SPENNYMOOR.

Telephone : Spennymoor 2304.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, and other records, for 1969.

There are no matters of significance to which attention need be specifically directed.

There is incorporated the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Robinson, and I am pleased to have this opportunity of thanking him and the members of the Health Department for their assistance. I thank, too, the Officers of the Council for their co-operation during the year and you, Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Council, for your constant encouragement and support.

Your Obedient Servant,

R. GORDON DRUMMOND,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1969

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.7
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Stillbirths

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.0
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	24.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per

1,000 live births)	17.0
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Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per

1,000 live births)	17.0
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Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under

1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	38.0
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Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

Deaths

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	223
Male	120
Female	103

Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)

Area in Acres	14.6
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Population (Registrar General's Estimate)

Estimated number of inhabited houses	7,543
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Rateable Value (1st April, 1969)

Sum represented by a penny rate	18,400
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Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors:

Births	6,182
Deaths	£582,685

Sum represented by a penny rate

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors:	£2,400
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Births

Deaths	1.01
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Section A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

1. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area—7,543 acres. The District consists of six wards; it borders with the Urban Districts of Bishop Auckland and Crook and Willington and the Rural Districts of Durham and Sedgefield.

The acreages of the Wards are as follows:—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	1,134
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	329
Middlestone Ward	...	...	...	1,215
Merrington Ward	...	...	...	1,822
Byers Green Ward	...	...	...	1,130
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	...	1,913

Industries—Light Engineering, Coal Mining and Agriculture are the main industries.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 18,400, the same as 1968's figure.

The approximate populations of the various Wards in the district have been assessed as follows:—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	4,192
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	1,569
Middlestone Ward	...	...	...	3,345
Merrington Ward	...	...	...	1,052
Byers Green Ward	...	...	...	990
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	...	7,252
				<hr/> 18,400 <hr/>

Inhabited Houses—The estimated number of inhabited houses in the district is 6,182.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors—These figures are a means of adjusting the rates for births and deaths so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales as a whole, in so far as distribution of age and sex is concerned. The adjusted rates are those to be compared with the rates for England and Wales and the similarly adjusted rates for other areas.

Births—During the year there were registered 126 male births and 105 female births. Of this total of 231, 20 were illegitimate. There were 16 fewer births than in 1968. The birth rate (adjusted) was 12.7 as compared with 13.5 for 1968.

Table I shows the Birth Rate in comparison with those for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of Durham over the past ten years.

Deaths—223 deaths were registered during the year, 120 males and 103 females.

The Death Rate (adjusted) of 14.6 is lower than the adjusted rate for last year (15.12). Table I shows a comparison with the rates for County Durham and for England and Wales.

Table III shows the individual causes of death.

Infant Mortality (Deaths of children under one year of age)—Five children died before reaching one year of age (as did five last year), the infant mortality rate being 22.0.

The rate for Durham County for 1969 is 16.0 and for England and Wales 18.0.

The actual numbers of deaths for the past 10 years are:—

1960	...	...	11	1965...	...	7
1961	...	...	11	1966...	...	8
1962	...	...	10	1967...	...	4
1963	...	...	14	1968...	...	5
1964	...	...	3	1969...	...	5

Of the five children who died before reaching one year of age, 4 were less than four weeks old. The neo-natal mortality rate is 17 compared with 12 for England and Wales and 11 for Durham County.

The stillbirth rate (21.0) is above the rate for England and Wales (13.0) and the rate for Durham County (17.0).

The perinatal mortality is held to be a fairly sensitive indicator of the general social conditions prevailing in the area to which it relates, being affected by such factors as housing, sanitary conditions generally, nutrition and even climate. As such it merits close and continuing scrutiny. The perinatal mortality rate is the total still births and deaths in the first week of life, per thousand total births and for the year under review is 38.0.

Table II shows comparative rates.

Maternal Mortality—There were no deaths during the year attributable to maternal causes.

The Maternal Mortality rate for County Durham for 1969 is 0.23 and for England and Wales 0.19.

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT FOR 1969 AND PREVIOUS YEARS
COMPARATIVE TABLE WITH ENGLAND AND WALES AND WITH DURHAM COUNTY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

YEARS	Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population			Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births		
	Spennymoor UDC	England & Wales	Durham Co.	Spennymoor UDC	England & Wales	Durham Co.	Spennymoor UDC	England & Wales	Durham Co.
1959	15.12	16.5	18.0	10.27	11.6	10.9	22.65	22.2	27.6
1960	16.96	17.1	18.5	11.15	11.5	11.5	32.74	21.9	27.7
1961	17.21	17.4	18.2	10.47	11.9	11.2	33.43	21.4	23.4
1962	16.23	18.0	18.6	10.52	11.9	11.6	31.74	20.7	26.0
1963	17.44	18.2	18.2	15.23	12.2	11.6	52.06	20.9	22.5
1964	15.56	18.4	18.3	14.15	11.3	10.9	12.56	20.0	22.9
1965	14.72	18.1	18.1	12.78	11.5	11.4	31.13	19.0	20.6
1966	14.47	17.7	17.3	14.58	11.7	11.7	36.38	19.0	21.0
1967	14.07	17.2	17.0	13.11	11.2	10.9	15.57	18.8	20.7
1968	13.53	16.9	16.1	15.12	11.9	11.5	20.0	18.3	20.0
Mean for 10 years 1959-1968...	15.49	17.5	17.8	12.73	11.6	11.3	28.8	20.2	23.2
1969	12.7	16.3	15.5	14.6	11.9	12.1	22.0	18.0	16.0

TABLE II

TABLE COMPARING PERINATAL RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND OF DURHAM
COUNTY WITH THOSE OF SPENNYMOOR OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Years.	Spennymoor U.D.C.	England and Wales	Durham County
1959	37.5	34.2	39.1
1960	45.9	32.9	40.1
1961	23.8	32.2	35.7
1962	22.2	30.8	35.7
1963	44.0	29.3	32.4
1964	40.6	28.2	33.5
1965	64.8	26.9	30.7
1966	22.4	26.3	28.6
1967	15.3	25.4	26.6
1968	27.9	25.0	25.9
Mean for 10 years 1959-1968 ...	34.4	29.1	32.8
1969	38.0	23.0	26.0

TABLE III
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1969.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total	Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	223	120	103
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc....	2	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	6	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	1	—
Leukaemia	1	1	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	14	7	7
Diabetes Mellitus	4	3	1
Anaemias	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	1	—	1
Mental Disorders	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	4	1	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	5	2	3
Hypertensive Disease	6	2	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	54	34	20
Other Forms of Heart Disease	13	6	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	37	17	20
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	3	4
Pneumonia	5	3	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	12	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	3	—
Peptic Ulcer... ..	1	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	2	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	—	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	—	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	2	—	2
Congenital Anomalies	3	2	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	1	1	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2	—
All other accidents	4	3	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	1	2
All other external causes	1	1	—

TABLE IV
DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

	-1	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over	Total
Males	2	2	3	2	2	5	6	21	41	36	120
Females	3	1	1	1	—	2	11	15	30	39	103
TOTAL	5	3	4	3	2	7	17	36	71	75	223

TABLE V

INFANT MORTALITY 1969

Cause of Death		Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months.	Total.
Congenital Abnormalities	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia	...	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—R. GORDON DRUMMOND, D.L., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Also Medical Officer of Health, City of Durham, Durham Rural District and Urban District of Brandon & Byshottles. Assistant County Medical Officer, County Durham.

Chief Public Health Inspector—N. ROBINSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector, Smoke Inspector and Cleansing Officer.

Senior Additional Public Health Inspector—B. G. COLLINSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Qualified Public Health Inspector. Meat and Other Foods Inspector and Smoke Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector—J. K. SCURR, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 10/10/69.) Qualified Public Health Inspector by Diploma Examination (embraces Meat and Other Foods qualification).

Authorised Meat Inspector—G. Allen, A.M.R.S.H.

Clerk: T. A. Robinson (Resigned 14/2/69).
K. Wallace (Appointed 3/3/69).

2. LABORATORY SERVICES.

- (i) Department of Pathology, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
- (iii) County Analyst, County Hall, Durham.

3. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Durham County Executive Council, Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham.

Eight medical practitioners in general practice reside within the district.

4. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Newcastle Regional Hospital Board,
Benfield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.

Durham Hospital Management Committee,
Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee,
General Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

(a) *General.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
- (iii) St. Margaret's Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).
- (iv) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

(b) *Maternity.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Princes Street Maternity Home, Bishop Auckland.
- (iii) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

(c) *Infectious.*

- (i) Highfield Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
- (ii) Langley Park Isolation (Emergency Fever Reserve).

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

- (i) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.
- (ii) Chest Clinic, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
(Static Mass Radiography unit open to general public daily.)
- (iii) Mass miniature Radiography Unit, General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(e) *Mental.*

- (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield.
- (ii) Binchester Whins Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

(f) *Venereal Disease Clinic.*

General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

5. HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) *School Health Service.*

There are 17 schools in the District comprising 3 secondary, 13 primary and a day school for handicapped children. There is one Central Kitchen of the Schools Meal service. Most schools now have their own kitchens attached.

(b) *Ambulance Service.*

The District is served from the ambulance depot at Bishop Auckland General Hospital and from the Ambulance Headquarters at Framwellgate Moor, Durham.

The figures shown below show work done by Bishop Auckland Ambulance Depot:—

Number of persons who used the service	27,699
Number of stretcher cases	6,557
Number of sitting cases	21,142
Mileage travelled	198,934

(c) *Home Nursing.*

No. of Nurses and District Nurse Midwives ... 2

Visits by District Nurses—

	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Visits.</i>
(a) Medical cases	188	3,996
(b) Surgical cases	69	1,935
(c) Tuberculosis cases	8	372
(d) Maternal complications	—	—

(d) *Domiciliary Midwifery.*

No. of Midwives residing and practising inside the district	1
No. of Midwives residing outside the district ...	1
Births attended by County midwives	44
Total births (live and still)	44
Cases attended as Midwife and Nurse	106
Hospital patients discharged home before 10th day	62
Total cases attended	168

(e) *Domestic Help.*

No. of Home Helps employed during year ...	76
Cases attended 1st January, 1969	164
New cases during the year	67
Cases terminated during the year	63
Cases attended 31st December, 1969	168

Breakdown of cases attended during the year:—

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers) ...	1
(b) Tuberculosis	4
(c) Chronic sick (including aged and infirm) ...	221
(d) Others	5

(f) *Mental Health.*

No. of persons registered as mentally subnormal	103
No. of persons under supervision in their own homes	82
No. of persons in hospitals for the mentally subnormal	21

(g) *Welfare Services.*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of Blind persons on register ...	23	29	52
No. of partially sighted persons on register	6	2	8
No. of deaf and dumb persons on register	6	3	9
No. of hard of hearing persons on register	—	—	—
No. of physically handicapped persons on register	23	26	49
No. of persons maintained in residential accommodation	14	11	25
Persons on waiting list for residential accommodation at end of year ...	7	7	14

(h) “Moor Grange” Grayson Road, Spennymoor.

The aged person's hostel built by Durham County Council in Grayson Road is nearing completion and is the twelfth of its kind to be built by the Council. The hostel, which is expected to open at the beginning of 1970, will cater for 45 old people on two floors. There are 33 single and six double bedrooms, one large lounge, three quiet rooms, a dining room and visitors' and doctors' rooms with a lift service to the first floor.

One wing of the building will be for 15 “very frail and disabled residents” and because these residents may need short term nursing from time to time the wing includes two sick rooms and a duty room and radio facilities are available in the bedrooms.

All the residents will be able to call for assistance on a “bleep” system, while radio facilities will be provided in all lounges, and two lounges will have television sets.

The previous policy of the County Council was to build a number of 60 bed hostels, specially for the very frail and disabled, but after a review it was decided that hostels like the one at Grayson Road should provide 15 such beds out of 45.

6. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No statutory action was taken during the year involving Section 47 relating to removal of persons in need of urgent care and attention.

7. CHIROPODY FOR THE AGED.

This was the fifth year of operation of the service, which is provided for females over 60 years of age and males over 65 years of age. The service is organised on a voluntary basis.

Three sessions are held each week, one on a Monday morning and two the following day. The sessions are held in the premises of Mr. Horner, Chiropodist, and domiciliary treatments are provided for those requiring them. The treatment is provided on an appointments system.

The number of persons treated was 336 and 888 treatments were given. Twenty-seven persons had domiciliary treatment with a total of 63 treatments.

8. MEALS ON WHEELS.

The Meals on Wheels Service for the elderly people in the district, operated by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, continued to function throughout the year.

The meals are obtained from the factory canteen of Messrs. Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd., and served to 24 persons on Mondays and Wednesdays and to 36 persons on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. A charge of 1/-d. per meal is made to each recipient. The costs of the service are shared equally between this Council and the County Council.

In January, an appeal was launched by the Chairman of this Council for the provision of a new delivery van to replace the former vehicle which had been taken off the road.

The appeal raised over £350 and the balance of the purchase cost was shared between the Urban District Council and the County Council. A new Hillman Imp Van was purchased and handed over to the Woman's Royal Voluntary Service in December.

The running and maintenance costs of the van are shared equally between the Urban District Council and the County Council.

9. LUNCHEON CLUB.

During 1968 the Women's Royal Voluntary Service introduced a new service for persons over 70 years of age in the form of a luncheon club and this club continued during the year.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week 20 lunches are served to elderly persons at the W.R.V.S. office in Parkwood Precinct, Spenny-moor, a charge of 1/4d. is made for the meal. Following lunch the participants are allowed to stay on the premises until 3.00 p.m. for general discussion or the playing of dominoes and cards.

The costs of the service are shared equally between this Council and the County Council.

The scheme is a very good example of what local voluntary work can achieve.

Section C

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table VIII shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 8 cases notified compared with 10 in the previous year. None was admitted to hospital.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There was 1 case notified (23 in 1968). None was admitted to hospital and no deaths were assigned to this disease.

Table X shows the number of immunisations which took place during 1969.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

There were no cases during the year.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was continued, at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, at clinic sessions held in these centres and in schools and by general practitioners in their surgeries under their own arrangements.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION—SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT YEAR ENDED, 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

PRIMARY

Age Group	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	Others under 16	Total
No. immunised ...	—	97	5	3	73	1	179

REINFORCING DOSES

Age Group.	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	Others under 16	Total
No. immunised ...	—	1	1	1	215	5	223

MEASLES.

65 cases were notified, as against 59 last year. The cases were, in the main, mild in character and no deaths were attributable to the disease.

MEASLES VACCINATION—SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

Age Group	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	Others Under 16	Total
No. immunised ...	—	20	18	6	6	2	52

DIPHTHERIA.

There were no cases of diphtheria notified in the district and Table X shows the number immunised in the district during the year.

SMALLPOX.

There were no cases.

The number vaccinated in the district during the year is shown on Table X.

DYSENTERY.

Three cases were notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID FEVER.

There were no cases notified.

FOOD POISONING.

One case of food poisoning was notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified was 5 as compared with 4 in the previous year. Of the five new cases notified 4 were of the pulmonary form. The table below shows the distribution of age groups.

There were no deaths from the disease of Tuberculosis notified in 1969.

Age Group				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Under 5	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
5—14	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
15—24	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
25—44	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
45—64	...	...	...	—	2	—	—
65 Upwards	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	2	2	1	—

TABLE VI.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND DEATHS OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS.

	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1959... ..	7	1	2	—
1960... ..	9	1	4	—
1961... ..	4	—	2	—
1962... ..	7	1	1	—
1963... ..	5	1	1	—
1964... ..	1	—	1	1
1965... ..	—	3	1	1
1966... ..	6	—	—	—
1967... ..	6	2	—	1
1968... ..	3	1	—	—
Mean for ten years 1959-1968 ...	4.8	1.0	1.2	0.3
1969... ..	4	1	—	—

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis of school children over the age of eleven years attending schools in the district was continued during the year. The Heaf Multiple Puncture Skin Test was used. The following table shows the numbers involved.

TABLE VII.

B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

No. tested	Positive Reactors		Negative Reactors Given B.C.G.		No. absent at time of reading	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
263	30	11.4	212	80.6	16	6.1

Three children were not vaccinated for medical reasons and two refused vaccination.

TABLE VIII
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED.

					Number of cases notified		
					1967	1968	1969
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	25	10	8
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2	23	1
Acute Poliomyelitis:							
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	362	59	65
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis:—							
Infective	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Post Infective	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever			...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever		...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis:—							
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	6	3	4
Meninges and CNS	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Forms	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Leptospirosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tetanus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Plague	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cholera	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	—	—	3

TABLE IX.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER, WHOOPING COUGH, MEASLES
AND POLIOMYELITIS

Age.	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	3	3	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	2	7	3	12	8	33	—	—
Poliomyelitis									
Paralytic	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE X

Age Group	PRIMARY							BOOSTER						
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962/65	Others under 16	Total	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962/65	Others under 16	Total
Diphtheria ...	2	82	1	3	61	2	151	—	25	67	1	205	9	307
Whooping Cough	2	79	1	3	1	—	86	—	23	59	1	22	—	105
Tetanus ...	2	83	3	4	75	35	202	—	25	65	2	202	28	322

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

	1 Year	2-4 Years	5-15 Years	16+	Total
Primary Vaccination	33	8	7	—	48
Re-vaccination	—	2	3	—	5

Section D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Medical Officer of Health,

I have pleasure once more in presenting my report on the activities of the Public Health Department for the year 1969.

In 1964 Spennymoor was chosen by the Durham County Council for a "Town Improvement Exercise" and the work planned and programmed as part of this exercise is already well in progress.

To offset the closure of the town's basic industries, the County and Urban District Councils, acting in partnership, have developed an Industrial Estate of over 180 acres at Green Lane, Spennymoor.

This land is now totally occupied by Black and Decker Ltd., manufacturing portable power tools; Courtaulds Ltd., engaged in worsted spinning and dyeing; Tomado Ltd., a subsidiary of Tinsley Wise Co., Household utensils, and Watson's Carriers Ltd., who transport goods all over the country.

The Merrington Lane Industrial Estate is occupied by Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd., who manufacture cookers, refrigerators and electrical fittings.

The total number of employees at these factories now exceeds 7,800 and compares with a population of less than 20,000.

I now wish to record that the pressure of the large slum clearance programme has abated somewhat. The appointment of the third public health inspector was related to this work and I was sorry to lose the services of a most efficient inspector.

Preliminary talks have now taken place on a proposed new slaughterhouse. The design is based on a weekly throughput of 200 cattle, 1,000 sheep and 250 pigs. This is urgently needed to cope with an ever increasing throughput. The appointment of the Meat Inspector is an excellent one which has relieved the public health inspectors of this duty to a large extent and whose role has, therefore, now altered.

The organisation in the office and the appointment of a Pest Control Officer still remains to be considered.

There is room for a careful scrutiny of the existing methods of refuse collection so as to plan out a good service and adapt to meet future needs. A scheme of "finish and off" was introduced at the request of the men in lieu of an incentive bonus scheme. The chief difficulty has arisen in the working of overtime due to Bank Holidays, men's absences

and vehicle breakdowns. In my opinion the introduction of an attendance bonus with a reversion to a 40 hour working week would overcome these problems, but it does have the following disadvantages:

- (a) The additional wages cost would increase without any measurable increase of productivity;
- (b) It would be impossible to resist logically a plea for all Council employees to enjoy a similar bonus.

The Council agreed in principle to implement a work study based incentive scheme for their employees.

Talks have taken place between Officers of Durham City, Durham Rural District, Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Councils on regional refuse disposal. This study is to determine if problems could be best solved by joint action and to look at least ten years ahead.

Repairs to houses in the private sector have continued to receive attention and the Council have considered, in conjunction with the County Council, a General Improvement Area in the Spennymoor ward.

Inspections of food shops, offices and clubs etc. have continued and a good deal of co-operation has been forthcoming from the occupiers of these premises.

May I conclude by thanking you for your very sound advice during the year and to my assistant who has so ably stepped into the breach whenever the occasion demanded. Sterling work has been done by the Clerk since his appointment and I would like also to place on record my thanks to the Chief Officers of the Council and to their respective staffs.

N. ROBINSON,

C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) *Source.*

Water is supplied for the whole of the Urban District by the Durham County Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity during the year.

The bulk of this supply is obtained from the Tunstall impounding reservoir and treatment works. The Tunstall Pressure Filter Plant was constructed in stages between 1937 and 1950 and now consists of 28 steel units with a total capacity of over 3 million gallons a day of filtered water.

Because of the need to find a substantial new source of supply the Durham County Water Board and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company joined forces some years ago to build a new reservoir, the Derwent Reservoir, in the neighbourhood of Edmondbyers. This reservoir, one of the largest in the country, has a capacity of 11,000 million gallons and is designed to produce a yield of 32 million gallons a day.

The clear filtered water from the treatment plant is discharged into a reservoir of 3 million gallons capacity.

Part of the Urban District, namely the village of Kirk Merrington, including North Close, is supplied with water from this reservoir.

(b) *Purity.*

Only natural fluoride is present in the water and is 0.1 to 0.45 p.p.m. The water is not plumbo solvent.

Mr. D. G. Drummond, Chief Engineer of the Durham County Water Board, has kindly supplied the following information relating to the water supply.

The figures for the consumption in the Board's area again show an increase on last year's:—

Unmetered consumption amounts to 31.16 gallons per person per day (29.96 in 1968).

Metered consumption amounts to 16.09 gallons per person per day (14.95 in 1968).

A total of 47.25 gallons a day for each of the consumers in the area of supply.

There were tested 2,468 Bacteriological samples taken of which 519 were distribution samples (i.e. samples taken from mains or from service pipes to properties).

Five samples of water taken by the department from the mains supply, were examined and recorded as Class I.

There are 6,375 properties supplied from the Board's mains and with the exception of caravans, there is no property known to the department without a direct supply of piped water.

2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of sanitary conveniences in the district at the end of 1969 was 7,994 and 33 ash-closets remain in the district as follows:—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	5
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	1
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	2
Byers Green Ward	...	...	21
Merrington Ward	...	...	4

There were 18 conversions carried out during the year.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage disposal plants at Tudhoe Mill and Byers Green continue to deal with the effluent from the area. The village of Kirk Merrington is drained to a pumping station for treatment by the Bishop Auckland U.D.C. sewage works at Binchester.

Main and subsidiary sewers are provided in almost all built-up areas of the district. The cesspool at North Close, serving a residential area of about 100 houses and bungalows is unable to cope and as it is situated on farm land used for grazing by a dairy herd it presents a health risk. A septic tank installation has been provided at Locomotive Terrace, Todhills and the earth closets at Old Park Terrace, Byers Green have been converted to the water carriage system.

The new sewerage system to serve Green Lane Industrial Estate and associated works, was completed in September and work on the new sewerage and sewage disposal works at Tudhoe Mill was commenced in April.

4. SLUM CLEARANCE.

A major slum clearance programme by the Council involved the demolition of nearly 1,500 houses, about one quarter of the existing stock.

The emphasis on clearance of unfit properties has been concentrated in the Low Spennymoor and Spennymoor wards of the town. In the last ten years representations have been made concerning 780 properties and 15 public inquiries have been held. In addition 19 properties, owned by the National Coal Board have been cleared by agreement. Carefully planned clearance became vital so as to dovetail into cleared sites and so provide suitable areas for redevelopment. The whole operation was programmed so that houses were available for the displaced

persons from clearance areas. To speed up the acquisition of land, General Vesting Declarations under the Town and Country Planning Acts have been made and authority was given by the Council to receive tenders for demolition of whole streets as soon as the dwellings were vacated. These are stripped-out immediately so as to reduce damage by vandalism, the contract entered into and the property subsequently demolished.

(a) *Clearance Areas.*

Two Clearance Areas were represented to the Council for the making of Compulsory Purchase Orders and were subsequently transmitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The Areas were:—

Coulson Street, Low Spennymoor ...	4 properties.
Chapel/William Streets, Low Spennymoor...	57 properties.

(b) *Individual Unfit Houses.*

During the year Orders were made in respect of the following properties:—

<i>Property.</i>	<i>Order.</i>
78 Durham Road, Spennymoor ...	Closing.
Station House, Byers Green ...	Demolition.
8 Clarence Street, Spennymoor ...	Closing.
4 Vyner Street, Spennymoor ...	Closing.
3, 4 and 5 Carr Street, Spennymoor ...	Demolition.
3 Cuthbert Street, Spennymoor ...	Closing.
61 Front Street, Merrington Lane ...	Demolition.
15 Green Lane, Spennymoor ...	Closing.
1 to 8 Barmoor Cottages, Croxdale ...	Demolition.

Eighteen Individual Unfit houses were dealt with and orders made as follows:—

5 Closing Orders; 13 Demolition Orders.

A total of 146 families were rehoused from unfit houses during the year and 16 properties were demolished.

5. COUNCIL HOUSES.

The number of Council houses erected during the pre-war period, 1936 to 1938 is 74 and 280 houses were erected by the North Eastern Housing Association during that period.

During the post-war period 1945 to 1969 inclusive 2,029 houses have been erected by the Council and 222 by the North Eastern Housing Association. In addition, 150 Board of Trade houses, now Council-owned and 221 various properties owned by the Council give an effective housing accommodation of 2,976.

The following table shows the situation of Council-owned properties:—

<i>Situation.</i>					
St. Paul's Gardens	...	...	...	...	61
Park Estate	...	...	...	...	242
Middlestone Moor Estate	...	...	...	...	659
George Street Estate	...	...	...	...	87
Tudhoe Moor Estate	...	...	...	...	186
York Hill Estate	...	...	...	...	395
Kirk Merrington Estate	...	...	...	...	57
Byers Green Estate	...	...	...	...	139
Front Street, Tudhoe	...	...	...	...	123
Hartley/South Terraces	...	...	...	...	33
Chestnut Avenue	...	...	...	...	66
Bessemer Park	...	...	...	...	355
Various Sundry properties	...	...	...	...	71
TOTAL					2,474

NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOUSES AND FLATS COMPLETED DURING 1969.

Housing Site	1 bedroom	2 bed-rooms	3 or more bedrooms	Totals
Bessemer Park	116	—	235	351
South Terrace/Durham Road ...	17	—	1	18
Totals	133	—	236	369

6. RENT ACT, 1957—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

No applications were received for the issue of certificates of disrepair.

7. PRIVATE STREET WORKS.

The work in connection with the making up of unmade streets is carried out by the Surveyor's Department and during 1969 one street was completed as compared with none during 1968.

8. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area,

9. FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

FACTORIES INSPECTION

Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	30	2	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found (if defects were discovered at the premises on two, three or more occasions they are counted as two, three or more 'cases')

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences ... (S.7)					
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	2	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	2	—	1	—

Two persons were notified as outworkers.

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to provide lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

10. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

(a) The following gives details of the registered premises in the Urban District and shows the number of persons employed.

	Registered Premises	Persons Employed
Offices	33	627
Shops	73	393
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	22
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	17	116
Fuel Storage Depots	2	14

(b) During the year numerous visits were made to enforce the provisions of the Act and to give advice where necessary. The following table gives an analysis of the contraventions found to exist under the Act:—

Section	Number of contraventions found
4 Cleanliness	7
6 Temperature	2
7 Ventilation	3
8 Lighting	5
9 Sanitary Conveniences	10
10 Washing facilities	4
11 Supply of drinking water	2
12 Clothing accommodation	2
15 Eating facilities	1
16 Floors, passage and stairs	6
Other Matters	4
Total	46

During the year proceedings were instituted against a local firm under the Act. The Company was charged with five offences; dirty condition of premises; failing to provide a thermometer; inadequate lighting; holed and dangerous flooring, and failure to register the premises.

The Company was found guilty on all charges—the dangerous flooring charge being withdrawn after the work had been carried out before the hearing—and fines totalling over £60 were imposed.

This is the first prosecution the Council has taken under the provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and indeed it is the first case of its kind to be heard at the Bishop Auckland Magistrates Court.

(c) During the year five accidents were reported involving employees in registered premises, all were minor accidents and were not attributable to any breach of the Act.

11. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

No smoke control areas were made by the Council during the year and it is felt that, taking into account the shortage of smokeless fuel available, the making of such orders would be impracticable.

12. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Meat Inspection.*

In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, all carcasses and offal of animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected and the carcasses marked with an approved stamp.

There were two licensed slaughterhouses operating in the area during the year, one operating only twice weekly, while the other, a meat wholesale business, required the constant attendance of the Council's Meat Inspector.

During the year the Council pressed for the tightening up on existing legislation relating to, (a) Wiping Cloths; (b) *Cysticercus Bovis*, and (c) Staining and Sterilization Regulations.

Table XI shows the numbers of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year.

TABLE XI

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
Number killed	3876	742	64	20296	4724	29702
Carcases inspected	3876	742	64	20296	4724	29702
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	7	18	7	76	22	130
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1674	399	9	5249	1676	9007
Weight of carcasses/parts con- demned (in lbs.)	22551	12858	446	14162	8916	58933
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	38	38
Weight of carcasses/parts condemned (in lbs.)	—	—	—	—	651	651
<i>Cysticerci:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	4	—	—	—	27
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	23	4	—	—	—	27
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weight of carcasses/parts condemned (in lbs.)	1588	248	—	—	—	1836

Total weights of carcasses and offal condemned were as follows:—

Tuberculosis 651 lbs.

Other Causes 60,769 lbs.

Meat Inspection charges amounted to £1,267 14s. 9d.

(b) *Pre-war and Post-war slaughtering.*

The following table gives an indication of the increase in slaughtering which has taken place in the district:—

		Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1937	...	784	176	15	450	480	1,905
1938	...	828	240	12	252	420	1,752
1955	...	1,887	203	43	4,935	2,221	9,289
1960	...	3,546	478	43	10,193	2,708	16,968
1961	...	3,909	525	45	10,180	3,033	17,692
1962	...	3,594	928	48	12,455	3,223	20,194
1963	...	3,079	1,293	97	10,682	4,158	19,309
1964	...	2,518	1,234	97	11,038	3,660	18,547
1965	...	2,411	671	63	10,757	4,274	18,176
1966	...	2,615	593	61	14,306	4,480	22,090
1967	...	3,264	543	43	16,741	3,181	23,772
1968	...	3,815	352	40	19,345	3,648	27,200
1969	...	3,876	742	64	20,296	4,724	29,702

(c) *Proposed New Wholesale Slaughterhouse.*

This layout incorporates a line system of dressing with off-the-floor methods, the design being upon the European Economic Community Standards for exporting of beef.

All the animals will be bled over a bleeding trough and adequate space is provided for the cooling and refrigeration of carcasses. A separate access road will be constructed to segregate the proposed premises from the farm and there will be complete separation of clean and dirty processes.

(d) *Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.*

Returns received from the two local knacker yards of animals received into their premises during the year and slaughtered for other than human consumption are given below:—

				Horses		Ponies	
1969				Live	Dead	Live	Dead
January	...	...	...	3	3	—	5
February	...	...	...	3	2	2	5
March	...	...	...	7	5	2	6
April	...	...	...	2	—	2	7
May	...	...	...	1	3	1	1
June	...	...	...	—	4	1	—
July	...	...	...	—	2	1	1
August	...	...	...	—	4	—	3
September	...	...	...	1	4	2	—
October	...	...	...	1	5	—	1
November	...	...	...	2	4	2	5
December	...	...	...	6	2	1	3
Totals ...				26	38	14	37

(e) *Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.*

There were 16 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

(f) *Food Inspection.*

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were as follows:—

			lbs.	ozs.
Meat at retail shops	...	...	60	—
Canned Meats	...	...	400	—
Other Canned Foods	...	...	1356	—
Other Foods	...	...	200	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	2016	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>

(g) *Disposal of Condemned Food.*

Carcases of animals condemned are sent to a processor at Darlington. Small quantities of unfit food are buried in the Council Refuse Tip.

(h) *Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

During the year four premises were registered under Section 16 of the Act which states:—

“No Premises shall be used for:—

- (a) The sale, or the manufacture for the purpose of sale, of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale, or
- (b) The preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale,

unless they are registered under this section for that purpose by the local authority”.

A total of 62 premises are registered under this section. 35 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and three premises in the district are used for the manufacture of ice-cream. 40 Samples taken from manufacturers and submitted to the Department of Pathology, Dryburn Hospital, Durham, for bacteriological examination, provided the following results.

Grade I	...	...	23
Grade II	...	...	4
Grade III	...	...	5
Grade IV	...	...	8

(i) *Bakehouses.*

There are 4 bakehouses in the area.

(j) *Fish Shops.*

Thirteen premises are in use in the area as fish shops.

(k) *Milk Supply.*

The County Council are responsible for the issue of milk licences and the County Health Inspectors regularly take samples of milk and consequently no sampling has been done by this authority.

The following summary shows the results of the testing of samples taken in this area:—

140 samples were tested.

12 failed the mythelene blue test and two failed the phosphatase test.

(l) *Brucella Abortus.*

No routine sampling is done by this Authority because of the close liaison with the County Health Inspector (as mentioned in the previous paragraph) but where *Brucella* is suspected, joint action will be taken.

There has been 1 case of *Brucella* during the year.

(m) *The liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.*

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(n) *Poultry Processing Premises.*

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

(o) *Food Complaints.*

Investigations were made in respect of three complaints concerning food which contained foreign matter.

(1) *Cockroach embedded in Fish Patty.*

A patty purchased from a local fish and chip shop was found to have a cockroach embedded in its surface. The patty was sent to the County Analyst but upon examination insufficient evidence was found as to how and when the cockroach had gained entry to the food. The Health Committee recommended the Council not to take any proceedings against the occupier and a warning letter was sent.

(2) Case of Mouldy Pork Pie.

A complaint was made in respect of a pork pie bought from a retailer in the town which was found to be mouldy during consumption. Following an investigation of rotation of stock methods of both the shop and wholesale bakery warning letters were sent to both companies.

(3) Case of Maggoty Chicken.

A chicken breast and wing bought locally was found to be foul smelling and infested with maggots and laboratory analysis revealed that it contained between 50 and 100 large diptera maggots which were very active, having eaten away a large area of meat under one chicken wing. The sale constituted a blatant breach of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Council authorised proceedings to be instituted in the Magistrates' Court but the information could not be laid within the statutory time limit. A letter expressing the Council's grave concern at this lapse in food standards was sent to the retailer concerned.

13. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964.

During the year six certificates of registration were issued and three registrations were not renewed. There are now 28 Scrap Metal Dealers registered under this Act; two of these have a scrap metal store in the area and 26 are itinerant collectors.

14. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Householders ought to receive a complete service inasmuch as the bin is emptied straight on to the refuse vehicle and returned to the household complete with lid. It was found that reminders were necessary to replace bin lids and return bins to the stance and I am not altogether in favour of the "advance preparation" method when bins are lined up on the kerbside awaiting collection. Pending the arrival of the refuse vehicle, dogs, mischevious youths, rummagers and the wind may dislodge bin lids. Bins are also unsightly particularly on housing estates and may cause obstruction of the footpath.

The disposable sack system has a lot to commend it from a hygienic and labour saving viewpoint and the provision of the sack scheme can gradually be extended so as to substantially eliminate "advance preparation" and provide virtually a dust free system. The cost of sacks is largely offset by the greater number of premises each collector can visit in a working day.

(a) *Trade Refuse and Salvage.*

Waste paper now represents well over one third of the industry's total raw material requirements and the Joint Waste Paper Advisory Council have stated that supplies are not keeping pace with the increased demand.

It is obvious that we should expand our collections and the Council felt that additional supplies may be obtained from domestic sources. We continued with our collections from the Trading Estate and, although we have to compete with private firms who can offer a price for this material, fibreboard was collected, baled and sold to the paper mills and during the year a total weight of 129 tons 9 cwts. was sent to the mills and £1,470 was received from the sales.

(b) *Staff.*

To carry out the work of the Department, 18 workmen are employed as follows:—

- 1 Foreman (acts as Foreman for Surveyor's Department also)
- 1 Bulldozer Driver/Tip Attendant.
- 1 Salvage Wagon Driver/Collector.
- 1 Salvage Collector/Baler Operator.
- 3 Drivers.
- 11 Fillers.

The help of additional, temporary personnel is enlisted to cover annual holidays and sickness.

(c) *Vehicles.*

Four vehicles are used in the collection of refuse:—

- 2 Karrier Dual Tippers (18 cubic yard capacity).
- 1 Karrier Dual Tipper (12 cubic yard capacity).
- 1 Derby Salvage Vehicle (10 cubic yard capacity).
- 1 Spare Wagon.

The large wagons have a crew of five men including Driver and the smaller wagon a crew of three Fillers and a Driver.

(d) *Refuse Disposal.*

At the present time four authorities within reasonable proximity to one another act in isolation as far as the disposal of refuse is concerned. The problem facing two of these authorities is becoming very acute.

The authorities all dispose of their refuse in the same manner, by tipping, and the availability of tipping space is cause for concern although we are better placed in this matter than our near neighbours.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government offered technical advice in March of this year on the subject and they recommend that wherever possible a joint feasibility study should take place.

At a meeting held at Officer level during the year it was generally agreed that in a scheme of this nature some form of pre-treatment should take place because of the changing character of household refuse containing as it does, a high paper content accompanied by a low density.

(e) *Sickness Benefit Scheme.*

The total number of man hours lost due to sickness during the year from January to December was 3,438 and the cost involved was £610. 18s. 6d.

15. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

A part-time Rodent Operative is employed by the Department from the Surveyor's Department, the work being carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during periods of absence.

The following is a summary of rodent control work carried out during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1969 as per Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Form I.R. 31:—

		Type of Property.	
		Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.
<i>Properties other than sewers.</i>			
1.	Number of properties in district ...	7,083	47
2.	(a) total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	105	8
	(b) number infested by (i) Rats ...	60	5
	(ii) Mice ...	3	1
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	9	8
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ...	2	1
	(ii) Mice ...	—	—

16. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SUMMARY SUBMITTED TO DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR, 1969.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

(a) *Formal Action.*

(i) No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	... ..	16
(ii) No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	... ..	5
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed	...	—
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation	...	—

(b) *Informal Action.*

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	95
---	--------	----

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during the year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

(a) As a result of informal action	... ..	65
(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice	... ..	7
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	8

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	Number of separate houses	
	Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	33	14
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	—	—
(c) Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	588	139
(d) Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme	558	132

Ashpit-privies converted into water-closets	...	...	—
Ash-closets converted into water-closets	...	...	18
Total number of water-closets in District	...	...	7,994
Total number of ash-closets in District	...	...	33
Number of ashpit-privies in District	...	...	—

New houses and flats completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By local authority	369	—	369
(b) By any other Housing Authority ...	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	51	51

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IN DISTRICT FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF
NUMBERS AND RATEABLE VALUES OF ALL HEREDITAMENTS ASSESSED IN
VALUATION LIST 1ST APRIL, 1969.

Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5853
Shops with Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Shops without Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Hotels & Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Warehouses, Stores & Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Garages & Filling Stations	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Lock up Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	618
Advertising Stations and signs	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Industrial	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Public Utility—Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electricity	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coal	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sports & Recreation Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other places of recreation	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Social clubs and community halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Libraries	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Crown Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Hospitals Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cemeteries	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Municipal Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Others (not classified)	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

7,130
